

pockets with an increase in grain prices," said Donnie Tennyson, association president.

The group is looking into building the East Coast's first ethanol production plant in Maryland, in the same way it has been done in the Midwest. There, farmers have raised money to build and operate plants that convert their corn, soybeans and other crops into ethanol, which is then mixed with gasoline and sold at service stations primarily in Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota.

Officials estimate that as many as half a million vehicles in the Washington region can run on an ethanol fuel mix. Only one other station in the region sells E85—the Navy Annex Citgo in Alexandria, near the Pentagon.

With the opening of the E85 pump in Laurel, local auto dealerships said they will begin notifying customers who have bought alternative fuel vehicles. They also said their salespeople will make the fuel option part of their pitch.

"If you have the motivation and the fuel, we have the vehicles," said Michael Paritee, manager of alternative fuels and government sales for General Motors. Several of its vehicles—including the 5.3-liter Suburban, Tahoe, Yukon and Yukon XLS and S-10 pickups—can run on E85.

There is some debate over the environmental benefits of E85. Advocates tout its ability to reduce carbon monoxide emissions, but opponents note that when ethanol is blended with gasoline, the fuel evaporates at a higher rate, producing smog. Environmentalists also say distilling corn starch into ethanol is an energy-intensive process, often involving coal.

Even so, local groups welcomed the opening of the Laurel pump.

"I'd like to think that 10 years from now our farmers will be growing a lot of our energy," said Michael Heller, of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "Not just corn and barley, but warm-season grasses that can soak up nutrient pollution, then be harvested and turned into fuel."

U.S. ENGAGED IN A TWO-FRONT WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, this country is now engaged in a two-front war. In Afghanistan itself, the war in many places seems to be going well. The President, the Pentagon, our intelligence agencies and other agencies are doing their job well. We also have a second war, and that is the war on the home front. In my view, not nearly enough is being done to provide domestic security at a time when we are under attack from terrorism. We have a large number of vulnerabilities.

Two weeks ago this Congress passed a tax bill which gave \$25 billion in retroactive tax cuts to the largest corporations in this country, repealing all of the taxes those corporations had paid over the past 15 years, retroactively. As a result, one corporation got \$1.4 billion in a tax gift.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the White House's budget arm, seemed to think we had

plenty of room to afford that kind of giveaway. Yet the Office of Management and Budget, the fiscal arm of the White House, is trying to block, along with the leadership of this House, our ability to even get a vote on an effort to add \$7 billion to the security on the home front, that I think we desperately need.

We are trying to add additional agents to the FBI, so they can more rapidly and effectively ferret out terrorists and protect the national interest. We are trying to provide additional resources to our public health departments around the country. We are trying to provide a number of additional areas of support. We are trying to cover more than 1 percent of our food supply that comes into this country, because only 1 percent gets inspected.

We are trying to do a lot to cover those bases, but I want to talk about one area specifically.

This chart represents a day in the life of the U.S. Customs Service. On a typical day, the U.S. Customs Service processes 1.3 million passengers, 2,642 aircraft, 50,889 trucks and containers, 355,000 vehicles, 588 ships, 65,000 entry summaries; and they perform 64 arrests, 223 other seizures, 107 narcotics seizures, and 9 currency seizures. That is part of what these people do for a living every day, all in the service of every American.

We have a serious problem because our Customs Service and our Coast Guard do not have enough people in order to secure the borders of the United States. Right now, there are 64 points of entry on the Canadian border which are not open full time. When they are closed, there are two deterrents to illegal entry: One is a little gate with a stop sign, as pictured in this picture, which says "This port is closed. Warning, \$5,000 fine for entering the United States through a closed port. Nearest open port is 70 miles east at portal on Canadian Highway 39."

This represents our deterrent, along with this: a traffic cone. I do not think it is going to scare many terrorists who want to illegally enter the United States.

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Yet we are being prevented from even bringing to the floor a measure to try to do something about that. We not only have problems with roads; we have problems with ports. My own major port of Duluth-Superior, for instance, is a port of access in this country.

Meanwhile, we have many ports closed; we have hour after hour backup of trucks at other points of entry that are open 24 hours a day. This backup means that many of our American industries are not able to produce fully because they cannot get the materials they need. This is just one of the many security problems we are trying to deal

with; and the problem we are facing, I am sorry to say, is that the leadership of this House is preventing us from getting votes on three amendments: one to ensure that our friends in New York get the relief they were promised 2 months ago; the second to make certain that we increase the Pentagon budget in areas thought necessary; and, third, to increase our homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the leadership of this House to allow us to vote on those three amendments. They do not need to vote for them, just allow us to vote on them.

There was an amendment today offered on New York which purports to take care of those problems. With all due respect, in my view, any Member of the New York delegation who tries to walk around in public using that as a fig leaf would be arrested for indecent exposure because that amendment does virtually nothing. It gives no political cover; and it should not, because it provides no substantive improvement.

I urge the House to allow us to vote on those three amendments. This involves the national security of the United States. We should not be operating under a gag rule. We should not be relying on a traffic cone as a major deterrent on the Canadian border, and that is what we will be doing without the amendment that we want to vote on when we return.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 85. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

COMPUTER SECURITY ENHANCEMENT AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Computer Security Enhancement and Research Act of 2001. This legislation will address the long-term needs in securing our Nation's information infrastructure and will strengthen the security of the non-classified computer systems of Federal agencies. The bill establishes a research and development program on computer and network security at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. It also strengthens the institute's existing responsibilities in developing best computer security practices and standards in assisting Federal